



ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746

May Newsletter 2023

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GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. MARY'S ~

Good Friday, April 7, was celebrated with three liturgies – Morning Prayer, the Evening Passion Service, and a Noon Stations of the Cross for Children.

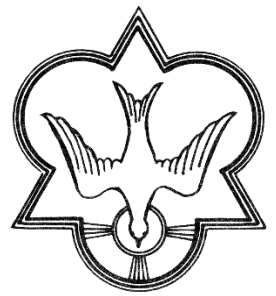
Each Station was reverently portrayed in tableau, as the Passion of Jesus was honored in song, scripture, and prayer. Deacon John Barry presided, as the children of our parish acted out different roles. Jesus and Mary were portrayed by Clayton Duffy and Ava Breen.

Special thanks to Fran Crespi, the Butler Family, Lisa and Ben Dufault, and Carol Salvi for organizing this beautiful celebration. Thank you to all the children who took roles as actors and readers, and all the parents who brought their little ones to enjoy the liturgy.

May the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus remind us of His perfect love for us. And may we all be filled with the joy and new hope which is Easter!

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

May, 2023 ~ Volume 49, Number 4



St. Mary's Parish
8 Church Street
Holliston, MA 01746

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Music Program: 429-6076

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com

Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Mission: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!"

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION CELEBRATED ~

At this year's Great Easter Vigil, one of our St. Mary's R.C.I.A. Candidates was fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Supported by his family, and joyfully received by the people of St. Mary's, Alexander Ferro made his First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Alex chose "Vincent," as his Confirmation name, in honor of St. Vincent of Saragossa.

Following the Mass, a reception was held for Alex, giving his fellow parishioners a chance to congratulate him. Welcome Alex, and may God bless you always!





WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S!

The Nashawaty Family - Charles and Lois

The Kaas Family - Christopher, Kristi, Collins and Colton

The Weinburg Family - Robert, Lucy, Rosemary and Audrey

The Beauvais Family - Claude, Marie, Chrysander and Chiara

The Fell Family - Darren, Melanie, Darren, Jr. and Olivia

The Paine Family - David, Sarah, Henry and Emily

The Gasner Family - Ransome, Anneliese and Callum

The Boucher Family - Andrew, Stefanie and Joseph

The Santucci Family - Andrew, Heather and Claire

The Kasprzyk Family - Jacob, Andrea, Lukas and Ethan

The Delgado Family - Raul and Sofia

The Deise Family - Jerome (Jerry) and Susan (Sue)

**May we grow in
faith together!**





WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S!

The Dahlstedt Family - Sam, Anne and Emmaline

The Konnath Family - Mark and Sally

The Sullivan Family - Dylan and Elise Garrity

The Rodriguez Family - Michael, Dennise, Zoe and Jonah

The Perrault Family - Robert, Gabriela and Robert

The McLaughlin Family - Matthew, Cailin and Natalie

The Hatfield Family - Mark, Ashley, Natalie and Ronan

The Snyder Family - Ian, Maura, Benedict and Augustine

The Wright Family - Stephen, Lorraine, Lilly and Lucas

The Evans Family - Cameron, Amanda and Julian

The Shepard Family - Ryan, Lisa, Corinne, John and Benjamin

The O'Donnell Family - Matthew, Karly, Thatcher, Dawson and Mona

**May we grow in
love together!**





MAY 7, Crowning of Mary Mass ~ The 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday will conclude with a Marian Procession. Led by our Grade 5 Students, and weather permitting, the Statue of the Blessed Mother in front of the rectory will be crowned, and a decade of the Rosary prayed. All Parishioners are invited to be part of this celebration, as we usher in Our Lady's Month of May and ask her prayerful intercession on our behalf.

MAY 14, Mother's Day ~ A special Blessing of Mothers will take place at all Masses this weekend. Lovely Flower Bouquets will also be available in support of our High School Summer Mission Trip to Florida. Details are provided on the next page.

MAY 14, Class of 2023 Mass for Graduates! ~ On Sunday, May 14, at 11:30 AM, St. Mary's will offer her 11th Annual Mass for Graduates. This year our parish has teens graduating from seven different schools. The Mass will include a special Blessing of Graduates, the Presentation of the 2023 Blessed Mother Scholarship, and a Student Class Speaker. The Mass is followed by a light reception in Fr. Haley Hall, and a Group Class Photo for the Newsletter. Come congratulate our graduates!



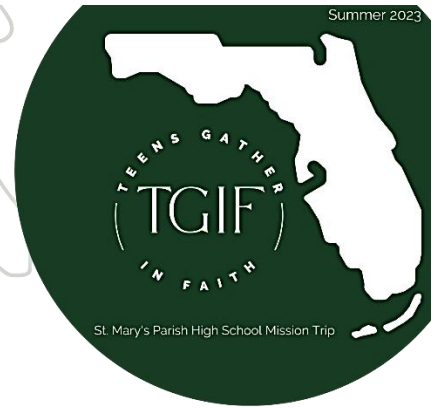
MAY 18, Ascension Thursday, A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30 PM

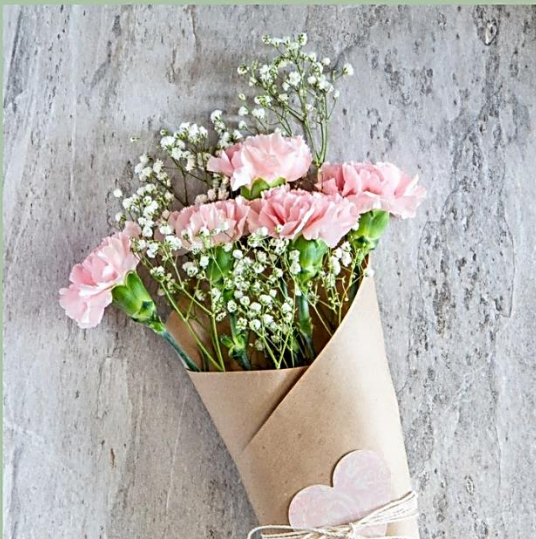
Feast Day Masses, Thursday, May 18, at 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension also changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a

Thursday, and marks an event of such importance that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. This means that Catholics attend Mass this day as on a Sunday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven. Where He has gone, we hope one day to follow!



Mother's Day Bouquet Sale



**AFTER ALL MASSES:
MAY 13-MAY 14**

On this special day for mothers, we would like to help you celebrate her with a unique bouquet to show your appreciation.

These bouquets were made by the teens who will be attending the Summer Mission Trip to Florida. They include a handmade rosary as well. There will be two options available—Large bouquets—most similar to picture on top \$30, and small bouquets \$20 similar to bottom picture.

All proceeds will go to this summer's Mission Trip to Florida. Bouquets will be available for sale after all Masses on Mother's Day weekend while supplies last, but to reserve your bouquet, you can pre-order starting May 5. (See Link Below)

PRE-ORDER
THROUGH THIS
LINK:

<https://form.jotform.co/m/231074616524149>





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One of the sites visited during our recent St. Mary's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land was Ain Karim – the hill town of Zechariah and Elizabeth (photos below). And as we enter Mary's Month of May, I am struck by Our Lady's journey there following her visit by the Archangel Gabriel.

Rather than being overwhelmed or immobilized by the news that she would bear God's Son, Mary immediately set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth, whom Gabriel had told her was also pregnant "in her old age."

The journey from Nazareth to Ain Karim was nearly 100 miles long. But concerned for the health and wellbeing of her elderly cousin, Mary undertook it without hesitation.

Her first act after accepting God's Son into her womb, was an act of love and compassion for an older person – a sign of why God chose Mary in the first place.

The journey culminated of course, with the Visitation, a meeting between the pregnant mothers of John the Baptist and Jesus, a meeting that was Spirit filled and revealed the great destiny that lay before these unborn babes.

God has a special love for the elderly, a love that Our Blessed Mother shared and demonstrated by her visit to Elizabeth. Consider honoring Mary this May by visiting an elderly person, or otherwise going out of your way to assist a senior in need.

Blessings will flow and follow!



Venerating the Birthplace of John the Baptist

TIME TO REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ~

The deadline to register your child / children for Religious Education Classes in Fall of 2023 is

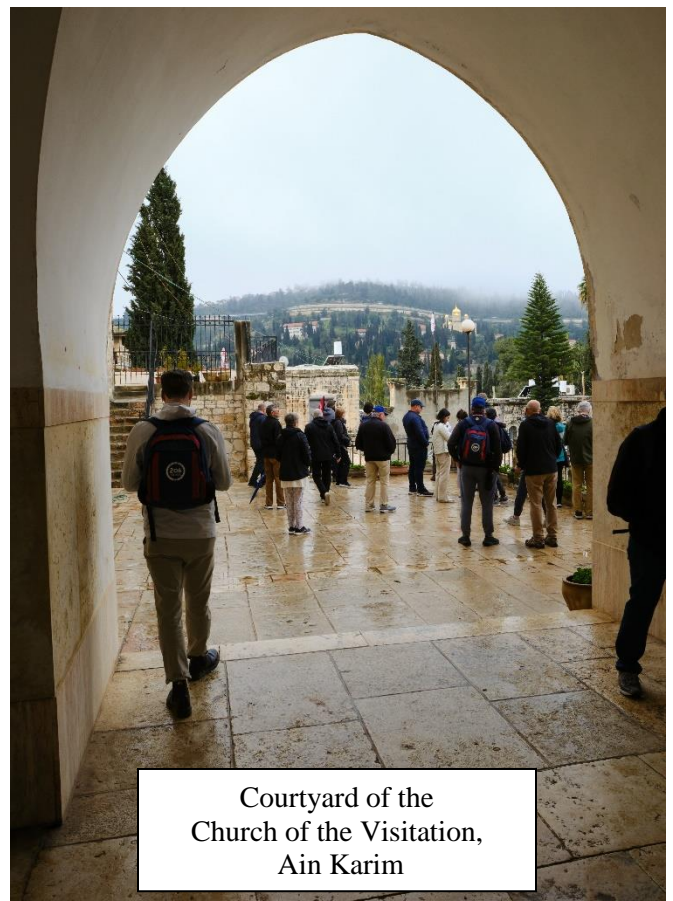
Friday, June 16, 2023.

Class time choices are on a first come first served basis. Be sure to get your preferred time and day by registering on time.

The Registration Form is available on the St. Mary's Website: <https://stmarysholliston.com/> under Register / Parish Forms on the main page. Forms should be accompanied by full payment made out to St. Mary's Parish. Scholarships or payment plans are available.

Our Program is open to families with children entering Pre-K through Grade 10. Registrations have been mailed to current students.

If you are new to Holliston and want to register your children please contact us at 508-429-6076 or at st.marysre1870@gmail.com. Welcome!



Courtyard of the
Church of the Visitation,
Ain Karim



ST. MARY'S 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Blast off for a STELLAR week of Faith, Friendship and Fun at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



MONDAY, JULY 24 – FRIDAY, JULY 28.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for children in Grades K-6! Adult and Teen volunteers are needed! Forms may be found in the Religious Education Office Lobby or online at: <https://stmarysholliston.com/vacation-bible-school/>. For additional information, please email the VBS Team at st.marysVBSholliston@gmail.com. The deadline to register your child is Friday, June 3, 2023, however **SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100.**

Check out these pics from our St. Mary's VBS's!



Knights of Columbus

St. Mary's Council #14224 May, 2023

"In Service to One, In Service to All."



MULCH DAY AT ST. MARY'S: Council Knights donated and spread twelve yards of mulch on our church grounds on Holy Saturday morning. We had two other participants - Louis Connoni from the Boy Scouts and Tim Cunnane, Jr. After our hard labor, donuts and coffee were enjoyed.

K OF C STATE FINALS FREE THROW CONTEST – LOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS SUCCESSFUL! Holliston boys and girls were successful free throw shooters in the Regional and State Finals held in March and April. In the State Finals, three finished among the very top. Danika Rosano came in second in the 10-year-old girls' competition. Katie Joslin and Jack McDonald were State Champions in the age 14 bracket for girls and boys! Congratulations to all boys and girls who participated in the 13th year the Council has sponsored this event. Knight

Donald Marden was the youth coordinator.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE: The Council Knights have raffle tickets to sell for your lucky chance to win the \$1000 first prize while benefiting needy local charities. One ticket costs \$5 and a book of five tickets costs \$20. The Council's annual raffle has now donated over \$280,000 to disabled veteran's charities, local food pantries, the Holliston Senior Center, Autism research, and other very worthy non-profit organizations. Thanks for your past support and we pray you will participate this year. When you see a Knight, ask him for your lucky ticket!!!

SWING FOR CHARITY! GOLFERS SAVE THE DATE, JUNE 9: The Council will hold its Second Annual "Swing for Charity" Golf Tournament at Pinecrest Golf Course. Last year this event raised over \$8000 for the **Holliston Pantry Shelf**. Local businesses are donating event/ sponsorships. **All local golfers are invited.** The event includes 18 holes of golf and lunch. Gather up your golfing partners and participate in this fun day. A single golfer fee is \$125 and a foursome fee is \$500. Register at KofCswingforcharity.com. Knight Anthony Polise is the committee chairman.

ARE YOUR FINANCIAL DECISIONS ALIGNED WITH YOUR FAITH?

All St. Mary's parishioners are invited to a special, no-obligation information session sponsored by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus in Father Haley Hall at 7:00 PM on May 11. Light refreshments will be served and no reservations are needed. K of C Financial Agent Matt DiCalogero will give an overview of all the financial products offered by the Knights of Columbus and answer your questions. The Knights offer life insurance, long-term care and disability insurance, annuities, and retirement investment funds. Underlying investments in all of these products align with Catholic teaching. With 42 consecutive years of superior ratings from A.M. Best, Knights of Columbus insurance products are strong, high performers that respect Catholic values. Many commercial financial providers invest in companies and policies that are contrary to Catholic teaching. Are your retirement investments and insurance coverages aligned with your Catholic faith?



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2023: The Council welcomes new member Jerome Deise. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. **Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men.**

women in WINGS God's spirit



St. Mary's Holliston Father Haley Hall. May 10 at 10:00 AM. In-person and through Zoom. Sponsored by WINGS. ALL parishioners are invited. Speaker: Katie Mahon, co-author of the Miracle Collectors. Email stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to register or call Jen at 617-852-9632 or Diane at 508-259-7795. Books will be available for purchase.

The Miracle Collectors, Uncovering Stories of Wonder, Joy, and Mystery

(Hachette, 2021) is the story of what happens after coauthors Joan Luise Hill and Katie Mahon go on the road following the publication of their first book ***The Miracle Chase***. Once they shared their amazing miracle stories, audiences could not wait to share their own extraordinary stories. These stories of courage, forgiveness, gratitude, faith, hope, and love were an unexpected gift that ignited the realization that miracles are available to all of us. ***The Miracle Collectors*** shows us how to make this miracle mindset possible. The book's three main themes - *Becoming Aware, Deepening Connection, and Finding Meaning* - use these powerful stories to illustrate how miracles can be found in everyday life. From thunderbolts to coincidences, miracles appear as waves of grace that can save lives and bring meaning in a world that too often can feel impersonal, polarizing, or isolating.

The Miracle Collectors, Uncovering Stories of Wonder, Joy, and Mystery is a book of possibilities, taking the reader on a journey to look at life through a fresh lens and offer hope and inspiration. The *Take a Miracle Moment* challenges that follow each chapter offer a personal and practical approach to broadening our perspective, finding our true selves, and realizing that we are not alone.

The Miracle Collectors delivers a newfound awareness that encourages us to live our lives to the fullest and helps us find our unique place in the world. If you have ever wondered if a miracle could happen to you ...

Join us on this journey and see how you too can become a miracle collector!

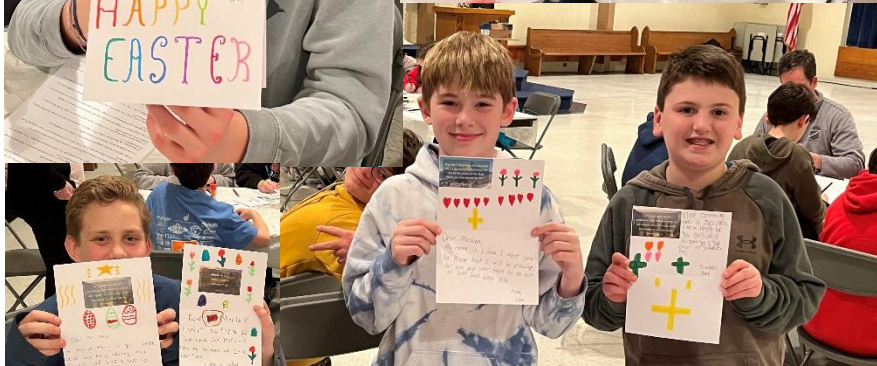
"I would not be a Christian if not for the miracles."
- St. Augustine





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



MSYG LENTEN CARDS & PRAYERS

Friday, March 5: The teens of St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group voted to forgo snacks at their March 5 Lenten Meeting, and to use that month's dues money instead to buy card making materials. Because of this, Sunday, March 5 found Fr. Haley Hall turned into a giant card making celebration.

Having received from St. Patrick Manor the First Names of elderly patients there, each MSYG teen committed to pray every day for a specific person throughout the Season of Lent. They expressed this promise in notes written in cards that they beautifully decorated, wishing the recipients health, hope, and Easter joy. Every card included a Scripture Verse to inspire and bless. The letters were then delivered to the residents of St. Patrick's Manor, letting them know that they are remembered, prayed for, and loved!



The evening started with a video presentation on the life of St. Patrick. His Feast Day is in March, and he is also the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. At the end of the meeting a St. Patrick Trivia Contest was held, with prizes for the team that retained the most knowledge about the saint.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



MSYG COSMIC BOWLING

Friday, March 24: Our MSYG teens spent this night Cosmic Bowling at AMF Lanes in Cranston, RI. This is the largest ten pin bowling alley in New England! Our group enjoyed the blasting rock music, flashing strobe lights, fluorescent lanes, and of course much friendship. Luke McHugh got the high score of the night, winning a \$50 Movie Gift Card!



MSYG END OF YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY & POTLUCK SUPPER MAY 7, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

All MSYG moms & dads are invited to this annual End of Year Celebration. Please bring your potluck item as assigned. The night will include:

- Delicious Pot Luck Supper
- Prayer & Closing Ceremony
- Awards & Honoring of 8th Graders
- Sign Ups for Brownstone Quarry
- Sign Ups for Scavenger Hunt
- Summer raft team and roommate sign ups
- A Giant Slideshow Movie of all this past year's events



SUMMER CALENDAR

Sunday, June 25 - Monday, June 26: Kennebec River Rafting Trip.

Thursday, July 20: Brownstone Quarry.

Friday, August 18: Deerfield Whitewater Rafting Trip.



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * May, 2023

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for boys in sixth grade or above.

The Troop meets weekly during the school-year, Mondays from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Lower Church.



SNOW SPORTS MERIT BADGE: Troop 14 had another eventful month in March. The Troop worked on the Snow Sports Merit Badge during two of their monthly meetings. During these meetings, they learned about skiing, snowboarding, skating, and cross-country skiing, and the proper equipment to use for each.

They concluded the Badge during a ski night at Wachusett on a Friday evening. Eight Scouts and four adults attended. The weather was perfect, and the conditions were great. Many Scouts were even able to enjoy fresh donuts on the side of the mountain.



SWIM NIGHT: The Troop also had their annual swim night at the Milford pool instead of their regular meeting. Twenty-five Scouts attended. During the event, several Scouts were signed off on some of their aquatics requirements. The rest of the event was a casual, fun night of playful swimming and jumping off the three-meter diving board.

NOBLE VIEW CAMPOUT: For their March campout, the Troop explored a new location in Western MA called Noble View, which

is operated by the AMC. The Troop arrived to a campsite with a two foot base of snow that they had to pack down in order to set up camp. Despite the snow, the weather during the day was in the mid-40s and was perfect for enjoying outdoor activities. The Troop went fishing at a local pond and several Scouts and leaders went on a short hike to explore a winter waterfall. The evening concluded with two excellent dinners, Cracker Barrel, and a large camp fire. This entire trip was planned by Senior Patrol Leader Luke Roberto.





Our Journey to the Holy Land

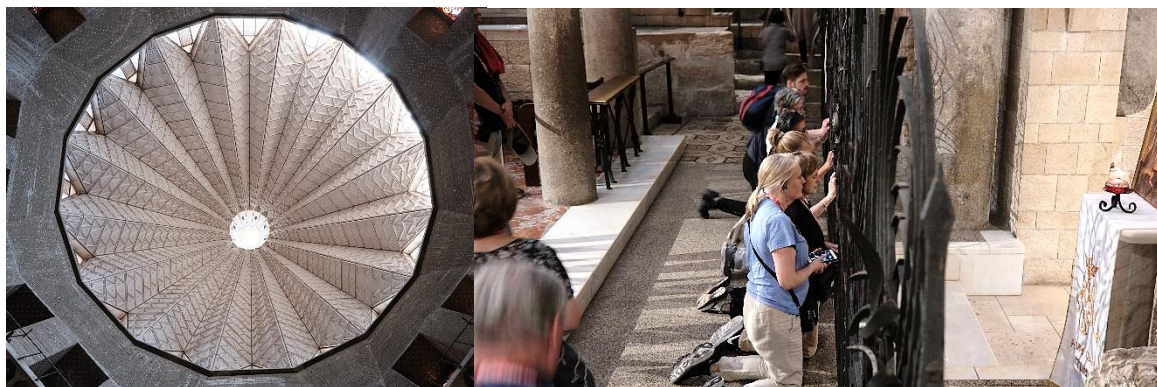
By Deacon John Barry

Our St. Mary's Pilgrimage in March was my second trip to Israel and Palestine. My last trip was the pilgrimage we made during the Jubilee of Mercy in 2016. Pope Francis had granted a plenary indulgence that year for pilgrims who passed through a Holy Door. We had encountered three of those doors on our tour, so my wife Diane and I were able to carry souls of several deceased loved ones through those doors on that pilgrimage. This year's trip was a bit different for me. The Jubilee of

Mercy was a distant memory, and I was traveling without family. But the doors I entered were the same doors, and I saw in them an opportunity to enter Scripture in a new, albeit familiar way. Here are a few observations from my second pilgrimage, with more to follow in next month's Newsletter.

Our Visit to

Nazareth: "God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth" [Luke 1:26]. The dome of the Church of the Annunciation is formed in the shape of an upside-down lily. The lily is the



flower of purity, and the flower of our Blessed Mother; and it was in this place that the angel Gabriel first appeared to her with the message of the Incarnation. Mary's childhood home and a cave reputed to be the workshop of St. Joseph are also located here. As we knelt before the gates marking the place where the angel appeared to Mary, we approached a gateway where heaven and earth embraced. It was in this place that, in the womb of our Blessed Mother, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" [John 1:14].



Our Visit to Galilee: "His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them" [Matthew 5:1-2]. The "Sea" of Galilee (actually a fresh water lake) is where Jesus began His ministry and where many of His miracles took place. It includes the towns of Magdala, Tabgha and Capernaum. Known as "the home of Jesus," Capernaum is where He called His first disciples, and healed Saint Peter's mother-in-law and the paralytic. Tabgha is where the miracle of the loaves and fish took place, and where Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount. Magdala is the home of Mary Magdalene, and the place where we stayed at the beginning of our

pilgrimage. On an altar in the form of a First Century fishing boat in a chapel overlooking the lake, we celebrated our first Mass in the Holy Land. Right outside the chapel stands a statue of an expectant woman. She does not carry the symbols associated with our Blessed Mother. Perhaps she is a symbol of us, the Church of Christ pregnant with the message of the Gospels, which we are entrusted to deliver to the world.

“WHAT’S A PRAYER SHAWL?”

By Jane Lebak

“What’s a prayer shawl?” I always answer this question by saying, “A prayer shawl is a spiritual hug.” If you’ve seen St. Mary’s bulletin in the last couple of months, you’ve likely read about PSALM, our new prayer shawl ministry. (*Prayer Shawls and Lots More*—everyone loves a cheesy acronym, and the PS of “prayer shawl” was just asking for it.)

When we’re in pain or in need, it’s natural and right to turn to our parish family for help, for support, and for emotional strength. Ideally, a parish can become a community, and communities care about the concerns of their members. Whether we’re facing a loss or a health crisis or a move, when our lives are in flux, it’s natural to lean on the ones we trust. When you learn a friend is in crisis, your first response may be to give them a hug.

A shawl wraps around you. It’s warm like a hug. It takes ten to fifteen hours to knit or crochet a shawl, and during that time, the crafter has been praying for and thinking about the recipient. Every inch of hundreds of yards of yarn has passed through their fingers and over their hook or needles, and all of that for you.



Do prayers stick to yarn? I think so. When that shawl goes on, the prayers come home. Yarn is potential, but shawls (and wraps...and lap blankets...) are love.

PSALM has been creating one or two items a week since February. We’ve made shawls, lap blankets and wraps, objects for men and women and children. Every one of these is handmade with the hope that the recipient will receive the love of their fellow parishioners as a reflection of the strength and consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Whether you create or receive a prayer shawl, you are a part of that exchange. We can’t “touch” love, but with a handmade object, in a way, we can. During a cold night or a cold season of life, facing cold facts and a cold world, a prayer shawl is a warm reminder of the love of God.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Our new group Prayer Shawls and Lots More (PSALM) is going strong! If you’d like to join, our meetings are after daily Mass on Fridays, or you can make them on your own and deliver them later. We love to teach, so if you’d love to learn, we’ve got you covered. Please contact Jane Lebak at JaneLebak@gmail.com if you’re interested in sharing a spiritual hug with your fellow parishioners.

Cross Walk

Using Poetry to Connect Children with their Faith
By Cathy Stenquist

When some people hear the word “poetry”, they often run in the other direction, because at times, it can be a bit intimidating. But in reality, poetry has been part of your life far more than you think—especially at Mass. You hear poetry in the Scripture readings and Psalms, in the lyrics of the hymns we sing and in the prayers we pray. And did you know that 33% of the Bible is poetry? Faith and poetry have always been connected.

Recently in the Vatican News, Poet Amanda Gorman (remember her beautiful poem, “The Hill We Climb?”) was asked, “Pope Francis on many occasions has emphasized how important it is to build bridges, to dialogue and to work courageously for reconciliation. Do you think that poetry, can help heal the wounds that divide our world?” She replied, “Absolutely. Poetry is the language of reconciliation. It often reminds us of our best selves and common values.”

Sharing poetry with our children and grandchildren can open up doors to conversation about these common values and our beautiful Catholic faith.

Throughout my own writing journey, I have been able to connect with some amazing poets and authors of children’s literature affectionately known as “Kidlit.” I had lunch the other day with talented author and poet, Nancy Tupper Ling, who has won many awards for her writing and has a particular affinity for poetry and connecting it to her love of God.



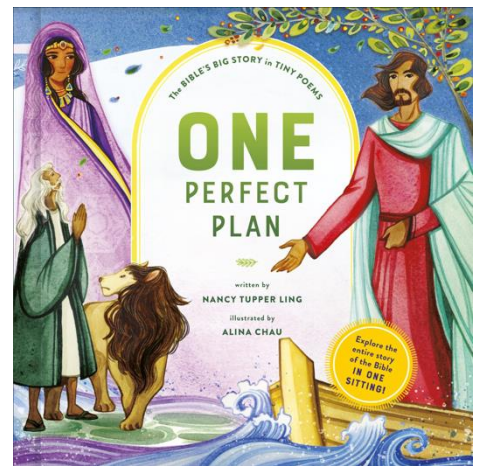
Nancy Tupper Ling

Her last anthology with June Cotner, “**For Every Little Thing**” is one of my all-time favorite poetry books for children. “Each prayer, poem, and blessing offers an appreciation for the small and big gifts in the world. Here, children can discover thankful hearts for their daily blessings.”



The opening poem from, “For Every Little Thing”

I invited Nancy to share a bit about her latest book “**One Perfect Plan: The Bible’s Big Stories in Tiny Poems**” which comes out this October. “I wanted to tell traditional Bible stories through poetry so a child could explore the redemptive story of God in one sitting. My book poetically presents the entire story arc of the Bible - How one word, one choice, one life can make a world of difference. It was important to my publisher Waterbrook/Multnomah, and I had to include a Biblical reference with each poem, so that a family or classroom could read more of the Word of God together.



So, why is poetry so good in helping kids (and adults too, I might add) to learn about their faith?

- Most poems are written in short bite size pieces that young children will sit through. Poems are like potato chips, enjoy as few or as many as you like at a time.

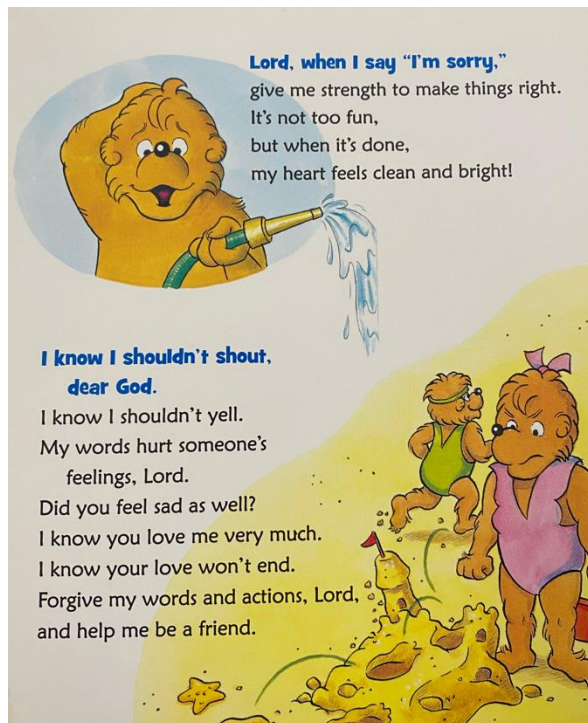
-Poetry's lovely stanzas enrich your child's vocabulary. Don't know what a word is? Look it up together and your child will get to know it in context of the poem you are reading. And while savoring them, spontaneous, meaningful conversation may arise.

-Poetry lets your mind wander, imagine and can challenge you. Sometimes it is light and flowy and lets your mind wander. Other times, you have to reread it and think hard about the deeper meaning.

-Your child will learn to identify rhyming words and the lyrical beauty of prose, but also will grow to love the story telling found there.

-Poetry stretches your child's ability to retain information and strengthens connections in their brain.

If you are looking for lovely faith-based poetry and stories to share with your child, be sure to stop by the St. Mary's library off the lobby and check out the beautiful selection arranged by topic. While your there, you might find a book you would enjoy too!



A page from "The Berenstain Book of Prayers"

On a recent visit, I was surprised to find *The Berenstain Bears Book of Prayers* by Mike Berenstain. My kids loved these bears! They taught them good manners, forgiveness, patience

etc. This book is chock full of short poems on every topic. I highly recommend it. I hope these little nibbles of faith-filled poetry I have shared, will get you excited about reading poetry with your littles during this Easter Season. I thought I would end today's Cross Walk with an Easter poem I wrote recently, called Easter's Promise.



Easter's Promise By Cathy Stenquist

When the Easter baskets
of chocolate eggs are gone,
you might think Easter's over,
but you'd be very wrong.

Easter's a whole season
To show us, all's not lost.
We keep on celebrating,
fifty days till Pentecost.

My daddy taught me Easter,
Is found in many things,
like dry bulbs momma plants in fall
that blossom in the spring.

He said there'll be "Good Fridays"
When we can feel a loss,
but Easter says there's always hope
It's right there in the cross.

When tough things happen to me,
And days pass way too slow,
I know my Easter's coming,
Cause, Jesus taught me so.

*FYI - Nancy's books are available through Amazon
or through your favorite independent bookstore.*

See you next month!
Walking in His name- Cathy Stenquist

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

MAY 2023

got faith?



SUNDAY READINGS: This month we are immersed in the season of Easter, a time of much rejoicing and singing of *Alleluias*! As we go from week to week, we are given a glimpse of the life of the apostles and early Church, as our Sunday Mass first readings are all from the *Acts of the Apostles*. You can learn more about this book of the Bible by watching two videos from the Bible Project, a nonprofit organization that produces many media resources that make the riches of the Bible available to all. *The Acts* video has two parts, and you can view them at <https://bit.ly/BPAActs1> and <https://bit.ly/BPAActs2>. If you prefer to read about *The Acts* (outline, major themes, etc.), you can go to <https://bit.ly/FJActs> which is a Catholic resources website organized by Felix Just, SJ. And, as always, you can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

PENTECOST AND EVANGELIZATION: The Feast of Pentecost, this year celebrated on May 28, concludes the Easter Season. On this date, we remember that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and gave them the courage to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Each one of us who has been baptized and then confirmed has received this gift of the Spirit and the subsequent call to tell others, through word and action, of the wonders of God's love for us; this is the essence of evangelization. Busted Halo, a website sponsored by the Paulist Fathers, has a great two-minute video about Pentecost and the gifts of the Holy Spirit (<https://bit.ly/BHPentecost2>). You will find other resources about Evangelization and the Missionary Spirit on the Adult Faith Resources page of our parish website which is dedicated to this topic; the page can be found at <https://bit.ly/MissionarySpirit>.

PRAYER: Praying the Rosary is a method of prayer that is particularly appropriate to this month of May, the month of Mary. The Rosary consists of a number of well-known prayers, recited in a specific sequence; see <https://bit.ly/BishopsHowtoRosary> for information on how to pray the rosary. The twenty mysteries of the Rosary, focal points of Jesus' and Mary's lived experience, are like a mini-theology course, highlighting God's love and action through Jesus and Mary. For a history of the development of the Rosary, go to <https://bit.ly/DCrosaryhistory>.

MOTHER'S DAY: Mother's Day is celebrated on Sunday, May 14 this year. Here's the address for a website that describes this "holiday" and its different traditions: <https://bit.ly/May14MothersDay>. This site also has a link to the history of Mother's Day. You will find a large variety of prayers for mothers at this Creighton University website: <https://bit.ly/CUMothers>.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: The month of May has been recognized as Mental Health Awareness month by Mental Health America, its affiliates and others since 1949. This year's focus is on the impact of peoples' surroundings on their mental health, and the theme is "look around, look within". You can go to the organization's webpage for more information: <https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month>. Sanctuary Mental Health (<https://sanctuarymentalhealth.org/>) is an international Christian organization that looks to "equip the church to support mental health and well-being" (from the website). There is an excellent blog entry entitled "Knowing God Makes All the Difference" on this website. Locally, the Mental Health Collaborative in Hopkinton (<https://www.mentalhealthcollaborative.org/>) has as its mission "[b]uilding Resilient Communities through Mental Health Education & Awareness..." (organization website). Click on "News" and you will find information about a program for parents of middle and high school students that the Collaborative is offering on May 8 as part of the #MetroWestKids Initiative. The program is presented in partnership with the office of our state senator, Karen Spilka.

—Leo Racine